

The Civic Green

Gardening from the Ground Up



The foundation of a Bay-Friendly garden is healthy soil. Understanding your soil will help you

grow a blossoming garden this season and for seasons to come. Learn more at the "Gardening from the Ground Up" workshop being held on Saturday, September 18th from 10am-1pm at the Centennial Recreation Center. This workshop will cover backyard composting, sheet mulching basics and other soil building techniques. Please call 918-4640 or visit:

www.reducewaste.org to register for this free workshop. Bay-Friendly is a trademark and service mark owned and developed by Stop-Waste.Org. Bay-Friendly programs are made possible by the Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening Regional Coalition.



The Three "R's" - Green Style!



With September being the traditional back to school month, it's time to refocus on the 3 R's. When it comes to the green world, however, the 3 R's stand for Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. While we all know and love these 3 R's, let's focus on why **REDUCE IS BETTER THAN RECYCLE**. It's not that recycling is bad, mind you, oh no, recycling remains a really good thing to do. It's just that reducing is better than recycling because it's more efficient.

What exactly does "reduce" mean in this context? Waste reduction occurs

when we engage in activities that actually reduce the amount of waste produced. Common waste reduction strategies include things like printing on two sides of the paper, buying products in bulk, and buying more durable products that last a long time. When we follow these strategies, we eliminate some of the waste we'd have to ultimately recycle or throw away. Since even recycling requires time and



energy to move materials around, reprocess them, and remanufacture them into something new, it is easy to see how waste reduction benefits us all.



Our old friend Reuse falls right in the middle of this hierarchy. Reusing differs from recycling in that we reuse things in their exact same physical form, while recycling requires things to be remade into something new. Clothing offers a perfect example of the green-elegance of reuse. Clothing is commonly handed down from child to child or purchased at a second-hand store and requires nothing more than a simple washing to fulfill its original purpose. While we can buy clothing made from recycled products, these products require large machines to make the new clothing which ultimately requires the use of water and energy. These recycled clothing products are ultimately green – but just not as green as their reused counterparts. An excellent vehicle for reuse is the FreeCycle Network. See this month's Green Living Tip for more information on this great resource.

So remember to reduce first, reuse second, and then recycle.

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Free Stuff Just For Doing What You've Always Done!

My recycling day is on Tuesday and by Friday of that same week, it's so exciting to see an email in my inbox from RecycleBank saying "You've Got Points!" I recycle just like I've done for years, and now, I can get free stuff just for doing what I've always done! It's so easy that my biggest decision is what to do with all of these points I'm earning. I start by visiting the Boutique at www.recyclebank.com I do need groceries - for only 50 points, I can get \$5.00 off of a qualifying purchase at Safeway. I really don't feel like grocery shopping - maybe I'll take my husband to Fuzia for dinner. There's a coupon for \$5.00 off a purchase of \$30 for only 50 points. Dessert? There's a McDonald's on the way home. How about a free ice cream cone for 100 points? I didn't shop for groceries, so now there's nothing in the house for breakfast. But wait, for 40 points I'll take the buy one item and get one free at Main Street Bagels - problem solved! This is fun! Visit www.recyclebank.com or call 888-727-2978 and get registered today so that you can get in on the fun, too!

Second Chance Week

Why is it that we are so quick to throw our personal possessions away at the first sign of wear? Wouldn't it be better to give your stuff a second chance while helping both the community and the environment? With this in mind, the City is holding our 8th Annual Second Chance Week September 11th - 19th.



Second Chance Week officially begins with **Gilroy's Citywide Garage Sale on September 11th-12th.**

Spend the weekend shopping for bargains at our neighbors to the south. A list of sale locations will be available at the Gilroy City Hall (7351 Rosanna Street) and at www.secondchanceweek.com

Monday, September 13th, is Universal Waste Awareness Day. Universal waste consists of consumer electronics, batteries, fluorescent lighting and other mercury-containing products that will not be accepted in your garbage. There are several sites which will accept these items at no charge. View our [flyer](#) for a complete listing. Don't forget to recycle household batteries at the curb.



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Tuesday, September 14th, is Donate and Shop at Local Thrift Stores Day. Check out our [re-use brochure](#) for a list of South County locations.

Wednesday, September 15th, is Donate Coats for Kids and Adults Day. Have gently used coats you or your children have grown out of? Bring them to the Community Center (17000 Monterey Road) between 8am and 5pm. The coats will go to underprivileged children and their parents.

Thursday, September 16th, is Second Sight Day. Bring your old eyeglasses to the Centennial Recreation Center (171 West Edmundson) from 8am-6pm and the Lions Club will give them a second chance to serve someone less fortunate.

Friday, September 17th, Recycle Your Cycle Day. Drop off your bicycles at the Morgan Hill Corporation Yard (100 Edes Court) from 10am-4pm.

Saturday and Sunday, September 18th - 19th are Morgan Hill's Citywide Garage Sale Days. A list of sale locations will be available at the Development Services Center (17575 Peak Ave.) and at www.secondchanceweek.com

For more information on any of these events, give us a call at 778-6480.

This Month's Green Living Tip:

FreeCycle Your Unwanted Stuff

Do you have things that you don't need anymore that you are willing to give to other people who do have a use for them? Sign-up for the "Morgan Hill Freecycle" group on Yahoo! Reduce waste by connecting people who are throwing away unwanted items with others seeking the same items. No item is too big or too small, but since this is a **FREEcycle** list, **ALL** items posted must be 100% free. To sign up, you'll



need to create a Yahoo e-mail account. There is no charge to set up and use this account. Once you have your Yahoo e-mail account, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MorganHillFreecycle/> and join the "Morgan Hill Freecycle" Group. It's free, it's easy, it's fun and it keeps your unwanted items out of the landfill! Freecycle, changing the world one gift at a time! For more information, visit www.freecycle.org/